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SELECTED TRANSLATIONS ON MINING INDUSTRY IN NORTH VIETNAM

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SELECTED TRANSLATIONS ON MINING INDUSTRY IN NORTH VIETNAM

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THE GEOLOGICAL BRANCH DURING 1959

/The following is a full translation of an article by Le Van Duc, director of the Geological Department, appearing in Nhan Dan, No 2091, 7 December 1959, page 3/

At the start of the three-year plan, the growth of industrial development requires that the geological branch survey and discover new mineral deposits as well as evaluate the volume of minerals indispensable in constructing the basic foundations of our heavy industry. The nature of our national situation necessitates an urgent and speedy industrial development; geological research cannot be done according to general principles, that is to say, for a certain period of time, peior to construction enterprises. Therefore, mineral prospecting must be carried out either during or after construction planning.

Geological surveying is a rather complicated scientific research task with many difficulties including the shortage and incompetence of our technicians and technical workers; and the inexperience of our cadres. The more the prospecting area is expanded, the deeper we have the venture into inaccessible jungles and mountain areas -- not to mention the as yet extremely remote and dangerous areas in which communication and transportation are impossible.

In the face of the above-mentioned situation, and in order to fulfill the heavy responsibilities entrusted by the Party and state, the geological branch exerted efforts to achieve rapid growth in all aspects. Let us compare, for instance, the figures of 1958 with those of this year: the 18 mineral reconnaissance parties and teams of 1958 have increased to 30 groups and teams in 1959. Compared with 1958, manpower has increased by 200 percent, and invested capital has doubled. Equipment and machinery and material needs have also increased.

In their determination to realize the State plan of 1959 -- the backbone of the Three Year Plan -- and with consciousness of the role and duties of each specific field, all our cadres and workers of the geological branch have overcome all difficulties and hardships in tirelessly competing among themselves and have thus obtained remarkable achievements. The chromium reconnaissance party of Cc Dinh completed its three-year plan in

February 1959. The zinc reconnaissance party of Cho Dien completed its 1959 plan during the third quarter, and completed its 1960 plan on 18 November 1959, that is to say, within two years, the group completed its entire three-year plan for determining the capacity of the Cho Dien Zinc Mine, at the same time it also expanded its efforts to discover a number of new mining areas. Up to the present, throughout the geological branch there are 15 parties and teams which have completed their 1959 plans; two of these parties have completed their three-year plans; other parties and teams expect to complete their plans in December.

As far as research is concerned, the year 1959 saw the beginning of scientific research in geology and mineral prospecting. Five new aluminum ore mines and two newly discovered copper deposits not only brought new raw materials to our country but also led to the discovery of the laws of formation and distribution of mineral deposits in our soil. We are getting ready to further research in oil prospecting and to compile a geological map of the entire Northern part of our country; this is a preliminary over-all scientific study that will serve as the foundation to future studies and research. The discovery of the Son La Coking Coal Mine to supply the steel and cast iron plant, which suffers from a shortage of coking coal, has indicated the effort of the geological branch.

To meet the need for such a rapid development the geological branch has trained more than 300 elementary-level geologists and more than 300 miners and drillers. The secondary school of geology of the Ministry of Industry has also assigned about 150 cadres to practical work. More than 110 graduates of the third year of the polytechnic university have received jobs. Because of the above-mentioned potentialities, cadres and workers of the geological branch have solved some basic problems inspite of difficulties and the present inadequate response to our needs.

On the other hand, with the goal of discovering additional resources, the geological branch has turned out propaganda and activated people to provide information on the presence of mineral ores, as well as to understand the importance of geological work and the duty of discovering new natural resources. Almost a year ago, the people, the army, and students, and administrative employees of all levels sent to the Geological Department about 300 letters giving information on the presence of ores and enclosing samples which provided information on many areas of qualitative and quantitative importance.

On National Day, 2 September 1959, the state awarded the geological branch four Labor medals and four commendations from the Office of the Premier.

These achievements have resulted from the attention and leadership of the Party Central Committee and the State. Having studied the decisions of the 14th Conference of the Party Central Committee during the reform phase and particularly during the improvement of industrial management, geological cadres and workers have fully realized the role of their field in the construction of socialism. The workers participated in managerial work, the cadres participated in labor; all worked harmoniously and enthusiastically. In implementing the motto, "One day of labor during the fourth quarter equal three working days of the first quarter," Cho Dien zinc reconnaissance party, following the campaign for better management, has considerably increased productivity. For instance, the capacity to dig tunnels increased by 200 percent; drilling by 181.7 percent; drilling with machine by 120 percent; building of shafts and furnaces by 191.5 percent. Mineralogy, chemical analysis, optical examination, processing plants and machinery have also increased their capacity from 150 to 200 percent.

Every geological cadre and worker has pledged to overcome difficulties and to continuously "conquer hardships to win glory." A fundamental factor in achieving the above results is the intensification of Party leadership on all levels, as well as the penetration among and close cooperation with the people on the part of reconnaissance parties.

However, together with these achievements and qualities, the geological branch has a number of defects including insufficient responses to construction needs and inadequate discovery of natural resources; cadres and workers retain outmoded ideas which should be rectified campaign for better industrial management.

One cannot discuss the achievements of the geological branch this year without mentioning the aid provided by comrade technicians of the fraternal nations. These enthusiastic brothers left the Soviet Union to come here to go through hardships and to work with our cadres and workers in a search for natural resources in our Fatherland. Comrade Shebotariov accepted the task of touring the whole Northern half of our country, in order to study the geological situation, discovering new mines, and provide directions to our long-range plans. When one observes the steady growth of the Lao Kay apatite

mines, one cannot help remembering Comrade Kamunkov, a technician who had spent four years of suffering and privation with Vietnamese cadres to complete the report on apatite natural resources. More heart-rending is the fact that, in the midst of the competition to overfulfil the target of the plan, Comrade Sagarov unfortunately lost his life in carrying out his duties in our country. There are still many comrade technicians from the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and China, who with their lofty international proletarian spirit, have helped to direct research and prospecting activities, and to train cadres for Vietnam. We must strive to study technology not only from the point of view of technique but also from the point of view of the international proletarian spirit of our comrades.

Reviewing our achievements from the beginning of the year to the present time, during the enthusiastic competition to celebrate the 30th anniversary of our Party, with the efforts of all cadres and workers of the geological branch, with the contribution of the entire people and the help of local administrative authorities, with the sincrer aid from the fraternal nations, the entire geological branch trusts that it will overcome all obstacles in achieving and overfulfilling the 1959 plan as well as the Three-Year Plan.

6,500!

/This is a full translation of an article written by Nguyen Khoat, appearing in issue no 18, pages 1 and 4, of Cong Nghiep (Industry) dated 16 November 1959 under the heading: "The struggle of Cam Pha Mine in the fulfilment of the year plan."/

6,500 tons of coal! This is the actual, average, daily mining output: a figure that the Cam Pha Mine is striving by all means available to reach. The most "prosperous" days of the French capitalist rulers at the most saw a production of about 2,500 tons per day. In the fourth quarter of 1958, production sometimes reached 7,000 tons, but compared to the average production of the whole quarter, this year's fourth quarter's average figure of 6,500 is higher.

Let us listen to a comrade miner: "If we should reach 6,500 tons, we would overfulfil the plan's target. To attain this 6,500 figure, we will have to toil ceaselessly, aiming at solving important problems of the accurate use of explosives to provide enough earth and rocks for the power shovels to work on and of increasing the yield of all kinds of machines by setting them up in such a way as to afford smooth assembly line production.

In fact, the fourth quarter witnessed many new changes in the production movement of the mine. During the first days of October, there was a strong tendency for a production increase in the mine workshops. At Post Number 6, Deo Nai, power shovels worked effectively to set new records. The record-breaking movement led by the A17 power shovel at the Deo Nai mechanized exploitation enterprise has raised the earth-shoveling capacity of the machine from 7,300 cubic meters to 7,816 cubic meters a day. At Post Number 6 of the mechanized exploitation enterprise is found a power shovel that has overfulfilled the plan from 85 percent to 151 percent in the first days of October.

The EKG power shovel at Deo Nai has also broken the record of 4,000 cubic meters and has attained 5,700 cubic meters. The yield increase of these machines proved that we have perfected the use of dynamite technique, and that we have handled the truck capacity with more efficiency than before (in October, the number of trucks used could sometimes reach 89.5 percent of the plan, but before that it usually was 67-70 percent);

at the same time it proved that the repairing of machines has improved greatly.

The organization, on the part of the leadership, of repair stations on the actual site of the workshop is a useful innovation in mining production. Previously, no matter whether the breakdowns were serious or not, all trucks and equipment had to be brought from the upper levels to the main repair shop. At present, only serious breakdowns are dealt with at the main repair shop and all other cases are handled on the spot. This is very convenient and fast; at the same time, it reduces the idle hours of trucks and equipment, and saves much fuel too.

I had the opportunity to attend activities at different levels of power shovel centers, and the most remarkable thing I noticed is the development of a sense of responsibility towards one's job, and towards machinery. "On the same level, and using the same machines, all three shifts will bear common responsibility to reap in common the work benefits." This system of common responsibility has put an end to the situation of "end of shift, end of responsibility," and "change of shift, change of regulations: no need to check machinery with care"; it has promoted the development of a certain sense of security and machine protection, thereby guaranteeing the improvement of production techniques of cadres and workers.

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To reach the figure of 6,500 tons of coal, it is very important for the mine to increase machine-repair capacity, and to decrease breakdowns of equipment and trucks due to "inadequate machine protection on the part of the workers." Previously the driver only knew how to steer the wheel; if a slight breakdown occurred, he would "return" the truck to the main repair shop. While waiting for the truck or machine to be repaired, our brothers usually spent their idle hours in "gossiping" or "sleeping" but not "working."

In handling various types of trucks and machines, our brothers tend to drive and operate carelessly, thus causing unfortunate breakdowns. It would be true to say that "the driver makes the work of the repairman difficult." The driver was used to his car, and yet did not know the origin of the breakdown, therefore, when he brought the truck to the repair shop, the repairman had to spend long hours in trying to diagnose the

breakdown. Hundreds of cases could be cited in which the repairman could not locate the right place to mend.

Confronted with this problem, the mine leadership sponsored in mid-year the movement for jack-of-all-trades drivers, aiming at "turning the machine operator into a repairman in charge of ordinary breakdown." The jack-of-all-trades drivers' movement was not only vital to production but also compatible with the thirst for knowledge of workers. It was thus warmly hailed by mine workers. As far as transportation, power-shoveling, and loading were concerned, workers have increasingly acquired new knowledge; they went in mass to apply for wrenches, to be able to spend all their spare time in studying machine repairing, dismantling and assembling whenever possible. Many brothers would not even rest on Sundays, and would spend their time in repair shops examining and checking machines. At small repair stations in the workshop, they not only learned how to dismantle and assemble machines but also seized every single opportunity to learn how to clean and grease these machines.

According to the comrade General Director, the jack-of-all-trades drivers' movement has had "a most remarkable result, that is to say, it has promoted the spirit of machine protection and has greatly reduced the number of breakdowns due to workers' carelessness."

However, the struggle to achieve the 6,500 figure in the mine makes it necessary for the mine leaders to manage a strick and timely production program. To solve this, the mine Party branch has implemented a daily production management system at Post Number 6. Comrade leaders have to be present at the workshop to give direct orders on the day's production. In the afternoon they compile the preliminary balance sheet, and get ready for the following day.

In implementing this program, a number of comrade leaders have obtained a better grasp of the situation, and supervise more effectively. The basic construction cadres now find it very interesting to acquire experiences in production management. Workers are very enthusiastic, because the assembly lines have in fact been consolidated, confusion and obstacles are avoided, and work directives are clearer; this has increased the labor yield, a fact which contributes greatly to the achievement of the overfulfilment of the plan's target, and at the same time, provides workers with greater personal benefits.

In the daily production management system, the cadres must have a good grasp of the daily workload must

master the labor force and machinery and must rationalize the democratic character of production and impose a high labor discipline on the worker; that is, he must to a certain extent, comprehend the whole work structure of his group. At present, since the system is quite new, cadres and workers are not yet accustomed to it; however, by using it effectively, the leadership will certainly find in it a very good weapon with which to manage mines.

Some comrades have climbed dozens of levels to secure water for coal drilling, many laborers have tirelessly done extra work every day and have courageously fought in the cold and in rain storms to insure normal production. Others "heroically" completed the conservative ideas of a number of cadres in order to put into effect their own proposals for production improvement. Their efforts are the result of the Party's education program which has made a deep impression in everyone's heart and mind. The achievement of the overfulfilment of the 1959 plan's target has become a subject for great determination and self-enlightenment of the people, Party members, and cadres. It constitutes the essential change in the mine; and together with various managerial changes it will show that the realization of the 6,500 figure to overfulfil the year's target by five percent is not a remote possibility.

WE WILL COMPLETE OUR PLAN TO-NIGHT

/This is a translation of an article by Anh Vu appearing in Nhan Dan no 2112 dated 28 December 1959 under the heading: "Cam Pha Mine Strives to get Results to Offer to the Party."/

To-night, the 15th night of the 11th month of the lunar year is as clear and refreshing as an autumn night should be. The full moon shines brightly over Ha Long Bay, and city of Cam Pha is spread out at our feet. We gradually climb up the stiff slopes. Suddenly a train whistles, breaking the silence. High above there is found the Deo Nai workshop, or more exactly, once a very active and violent battlefield.

To-night is the most critical night, since it is the deadline on which the yearly production plan of the Cam Pha Mine will be achieved. The comrade director already told us this morning: "We will try our best to be able to sound a long, victorious siren tomorrow morning."

From the first of the month to the present time, cadres as well as workers have closely studied their tasks day after day, hour after hour. There are more than 100,000 tons to be extracted, -- then, 90,000, and 80,000, etc. On 12 December there were 246,510 tons and today, 14 December, there remains another 76,000 tons. The figure indicating the remaining volume to be extracted continues to decrease as time passes by, and the excitement and enthusiasm of all increase steadily.

Some people may perhaps say: "We have more than a month to go before the end of the year, so why should we overstrain ourselves?" But all the miners solemnly remember the pledge they made at the inauguration of the competition hailing the 30th anniversary of the Party: "We will produce nine percent more than was planned as the pledge to the Party." The figure of 76,000 tons seems to obsess everybody. The work must be finished tonight.

From morning till night, in different offices as well as in workshops the telephone rings incessantly.

"How much have we done?"

"How much more is there?"

The comrades in charge of the switchboard have headaches because of the quarrels on the phone.

"You said we've completed 700 tons, but it should be more than that! What a strange way of reckoning,

really!"

"We've already checked carefully. If we don't work harder, we will not be able to hear the siren tomorrow!"

The comrade in charge of the switchboard is confused from continuously connecting and disconnecting the lines. Mutterings and grumblings are heard together with the snatching of receivers:

"Why didn't you answer me?"

"Don't cut me off too quickly, please."

The telephone is not the best means to direct and supervise. In the workshop are found not only the comrade manager but also the comrade general director and the secretary of the mine branch of the Party. Reports and orders come in profusion:

"Comrade, there is a power failure!"

"Report: the belt conveyor is stuck again!"

"Get the electric equipment. If necessary, go by car!"

Evening falls. The moon and the lamp lights have taken the place of sunshine, yet the comrade leaders have not had their meals and recesses.

We have reached the 12th coal layer. We have to be careful, otherwise our lives might be easily endangered for railroad cars shoot by like arrows, one after the other. Suddenly, they are jammed near the loaded belt conveyor, and the upper layer pours coal on the railroad of the lower layer. There is a woman's scream from the 12th layer:

"Why did you choose this time to pour your coal? We have another seven or eight turns to go and it is not fair of you to act like this!"

Glittering picks are brought to mend the railroad, and merrily-laughing comrades start to push the cars along the rails. Whenever cars pass electric post near the railroad, bright eyes and shining smiles can be seen in the light. Human shadows project themselves on the layer's surface, become short and lengthen themselves indefinitely, thereby resembling shadows of giants projecting themselves against the sky.

The key machines tonight are still the power shovels. As enormous as an elephant, the Soviet EKG 1 machine has helped complete the year's plan as from 9 December. On the frame is beautifully written this slogan: "We sincerely thank the Party for improving our lives."

At present, the EKG 1 aggressively operates on the 250th layer with its four square-meter jaws, biting profoundly the dark, shiny edge of a 12-meter-deep coal

seam. It turns around, sweeps the brilliant spotlights, bites and pours the coal out incessantly.

And the railroad cars, looking like bears and cattle in expectation of a big feast, begin to rejoice noisily, run after one another and dance with lanterns. When they arrive in front of the belt conveyor, they pour out streams of coal. The belt conveyor moves like an immense band of silk flowing slowly. At its sides are found groups of wide-eyed young men and women who try to discover big lumps of coal or earth. At the other end of the conveyor a sister worker regulates the machine according to the outcoming flow of coal. But a white piece of paper suddenly appears on the dark stream of coal. The sister worker hesitates: Is this a note from a teasing young man at the other end of the conveyor? But in the end she picks it up and reads. Just a few casually jotted down words: "Keep awake, dear friend, for we will complete the plan tonight."

Intoxicated by the battlefield atmosphere, the comrade manager says to me:

"This reminds us of the time when we couldn't reach the target in spite of our efforts and anxieties."

That time was not so far back. We could not reach the plan's target during the first nine months of the year. In the fourth quarter, the remaining figure was nearly 500,000 tons. Even in the dry days of October, our daily target of 50,000 tons could not be realized. Then executing orders from the Party Central Committee and the state, the administrative committee and the Party committee checked and severely criticized our shortcomings and mistakes, and suggested more concrete remedies. From then on, the belt conveyors rarely broke down, more trucks were used on the field, and the production program was administered more effectively. It was at that time that the movement for improvement of industrial management reached its conclusive phase, and that the competition to hail the birthday of the Party began. The people's movement for production spread like a fire. The daily production target of 40,000-50,000 tons rose suddenly to 60,000-70,000 tons, and finally to 80,000 tons.

I had witnessed the competition period at the end of last year, which had the aim of exceeding the production level of 1939. This year we have something entirely different, and that is the deep reverence which all feel toward the Party.

A group of young men and women cannot wait for the pump to draw the muddy water from swamp, and jump out to clear the moat. They shiver in the cold wind that freezes

layer of mud adhering to their skin. Yet, their discolored lips continue to smile. And they relate to me their recent days of struggle. They belong to the "6-1" youth team, composed of youths and young labor members of all units who, upon the call of the Party, assembled and readily went to all those areas that encountered the most difficult production problems. They willingly worked for a salary smaller than the contractual one they had enjoyed before. They were ready to work for an extra two or four hours either in the day-time or at night, whenever they were needed. On the muddy moat before me, the belt scraper continuously moves coal.

The workshop authorities entrust the "6-1" youth team with the task of digging moats, draining water, dredging mud, and setting up belt scrapers within three days. But the team finished the work in only two days. Trung, the team leader, who is at the same time secretary of the young workers' group, merrily talks to me. The most precious prize and the happiest event in his life is his actual admission to courses on the opposition to the development of the Party.

He introduced sister Mai, a member of the team who is also attending the same course. Shy and blushing, she only says: "I have nothing to say.... I only know that I am happy to attend the course on the opposition." It is only later that I know she is on the executive committee of the young workers' branch, and is always the first one to help in emergencies and to assist all in their tasks.

How very clever of the Party to cultivate this generation, this wonderful "6-1" generation, that is now blooming all over mining areas, in the form of vanguard flags, flowers decorating furnaces, car wheels, power drills, power shovels, in the form of "6-1" youth teams, "pioneer youth teams,""red flag youth teams" embellishing all workshops! Comrade Doi, after working on the night shift, persuades people to work early to help the previous shift. Comrade Man works on 45 consecutive shifts, operates the power shovel and at the same time pumps oil and repairs machines, thus doing the work of two persons. Sister Nhuan and sister Vui stay all day in the deep mud competing with machines in the draining and dredging work. Bare-shouldered youths carry several hundred weights of loads of machinery and tools, climbing up the hills like members of heavy artillery units.

The moon has long since set, but the images of these people are still shining in the workshop and in my mind. This light dawns with the sun rising over the sea surface announcing last night's most arduous fight,

and the beginning of a glorious day.

The telephone rings from the director's office to all the workshops: On 14 December, 80,090 tons were extracted! The whole mine has achieved the year's plan of production 17 days before the deadline. A long siren bursts out for five minutes, resounding through workshops and streets; train whistles, car horns, and power shovels roar simultaneously. Groups of cadres and workers wield their picks and tools, clap and clamor noisily. Everybody's heart seems to burst and the joy seems to ascent the sky together with the sound of the siren. See hail the achievement of the mine, the precious gift to the Party: 1,350,000 tons of coal! Perhaps it never occurs to them that they are the ones to be applauded.

A sister worker hurriedly takes off her gloves to clap to her hert's content. What a lovely pair of small, white, and soft hands she has! Who would imagine that these hands could break hills and crumble mountains? The figure of 1,350,000 is really gigantic. But it is only the total result of many days' and months' work of men and women, the produce of these beautiful, strong and worthy hands.

HOW THE CHO DIEN ZINC MINE RECONNAISSANCE PARTY ACHIEVED ITS THREE-YEAR PLAN IN 18 MONTHS

/The following is a translation of an editorial appearing in Nhan Dan no 2107 dated 23 December 1959, page 1./

On 18 November 1959, the geological reconnaissance party of the Cho Dien Zinc Mine achieved its three-year (1958-1960) plan, from the point of view of evaluating the ore deposits and the volume of work. The simultaneous achievement of these two goals illustrates the accuracy of the group's plan and its skill in technical management.

A fact deserving attention is that after finishing the 1959 and the three-year plans, the groups' average yield in all fields, such as the repairing of old furnaces and the building of new ones..., is growing steadily. The costs of all the enterprises are lower than 1958 costs. The rate of labor accidents and illness has clearly declined.

Records like these are not achieved by chance. Cadres and workers of the reconnaissance party of the Cho Dien Zinc Mine live and work in a wild and remote forest and mountain area, and encounter many difficulties; moreover all of them had personal worries and problems at the beginning. But the majority of them are young and full of enthusiasm and high spirits. They were educated and trained by the Party branch, and especially after the movement for improvement of the enterprise management system, they understood their duties better, and their revolutionary level improved greatly. They are proud to make use of their youth in this difficult pioneering work, and to devote their energies to the task of building their country and socialism. This is their greatest victory: opening the way for more achievements by the Cho Dien Zinc Mine reconnaissance party.

Once the degree of enlightenment of the people in socialism is high, the leaders of the group may appropriately raise the question of systematizing organizations, modernizing techniques, guiding the common struggle and creating a people's movement for over-all competition in discoveries and continuous study of

mutual experiences to increase the production level.

Besides, the group cadres are concerned with the improvement of workers' lives; they help them become settled, organize their leisure, and aid them in establishing a new, healthy and better way of live, thereby enabling all the workers to care for the organization and their work sites and to consider the latter as their own homes.

The above-mentioned achievements cannot be separated from the realization of the Party Central Committee policy of activating workers and government employees to improve industrial management. This extensive movement has resulted in very important changes in the cadres' and workers' minds, ideas, attitude at work, and devotion to the people and the Fatherland.

The key to success of the Cho Dien Zinc Mine reconnaissance party is that its members value ideological and technical activities; they are concerned with the workers' lives and follow the people's way in these three-fold activities. In doing so, their productivity and the quality and volume of their products are rapidly and continuously increased, thus enabling them to reach greater achievements and to complete the plan more than a year before the deadline.

The valuable experiences of the Cho Dien Zinc Mine reconnaissance party not only deserve the careful study of other prospecting groups but also deserve scrutiny by many enterprises and workshops so as to improve their efforts concerning the competition movement in production and construction.

DEFICIENCIES OF THE BASIC CONSTRUCTION BRANCH AT THE HON GAY COAL MINE IN 1959

/This is a translation of an article by Le Huu Quan, appearing in issue no 22 of Cong Nghiep (Industry) dated 16 January 1960, page 3, under the "Self Criticism" section./

As of the end of 1959, apart from enterprises which have been halted for further research, the Hong Gay Coal Mine has fulfilled by 100 percent the volume of basic construction works needed to serve the productivity of the mine.

Despite the fact that at Huu Nghi and Lo Phong workshops some matters concerning the transportation system have been carried over to the beginning of 1960 for solution, the mine finished a number of urgent and unexpected items by the beginning of the year, which were not included in the plan; these include the Bang Gianh A water drainage system, the Bang Gianh A water reservoir, the expansion of Ha Lam Bridge, and the construction of roads to Bang Gianh B. Thus, from the point of view of construction volume, the rate of accomplishment exceeds 100 percent.

Regarding construction works not related to production, the mine has made many efforts and has had fine results: the construction of rain shelters for workers at all workshops surpasses the target by 63 percent, and that of housing quarters for apprentices by 19 percent. The construction of housing quarters for workers, with the exception of welfare centers, was carried out by 126 percent in all areas as of the end of the year; if we include the welfare centers, the rate of achievement would be 143 percent.

These results are due to the efforts of the entire body of workers and personnel of the basic construction branch, the close cooperation of the distribution branch, and especially the great change in the spirit of responsibility and the conception of duty of workers, staff, and cadres after the General Conference of Factory Manuel and White Collar Workers; on the other hand, the basic construction branch has recently been rigorously directed by the Mine Party Branch and the Management from the point of view of political ideas as well as that of competition. A notable achievement is the fact that

when the construction volume was increased and the deadline of the struggle drew near, the mine knew how to organize all available forces in tasks of basic construction: Thus, the Army's participation in socialist labor activities and the farmers' supplementary crafts after harvest time have increasingly taken over the area of contract work and have accelerated the rate of competition and lowered cost prices to a certain extent. These are the fundamental factors contribution to the over-all completion of the plan for the year.

Besides these achievements and victories, the mine has also made serious errors, which have damaged to a marked extent the national budget and have exerted a bad influence on, and reduced, the exploitation of the mine: Disunity in the Goals of Basic Construction Management Organizations and Lack of Collective Discussions from the Onset of Work.

The board of directors of the Hon Gay (as well as the Cam Pha) mines is responsible to the Ministry of Industry. In addition, however, there is the General Management representing the Ministry, which is in charge of technical instructions of the mine. Because of the loose cooperation of these two organizations, many enterprises which had been approved earlier by the Ministry could not fulfil their work at the end of year and finally had to be abandoned.

For instance, although the mine's suggestions for the development of Lo Phong Tunnel (we prefer not to discuss the relative merits of these suggestions) were approved by the Ministry, the General Management changed its mind when the work was due to begin; it held that what was actually needed was the improvement of railway transportation, instead of widening the tunnel leading to the Ha Tu explosives warehouse. The Ministry had appropriated funds for the project, but the General Management thought it was not necessary. When the construction of the power plant of the mine began, the General Management revealed that it had built it on a coal seam and that future exploitation methods could not yet be defined. Therefore, until the end of the year, the three projects existed as mere paper work, thus forcing the competition forces to wait indefinitely.

Inadequate Technical Studies and Underfulfilment of Technicians' Ideas

In 1958, the Mine built the Bang Gianh A coal

conveying and water drainage system which was not frequently in use and was afterwards destroyed during the unsuccessful struggle against rainstorms, which caused more than 100,000 dong damage. Having hardly had any time to check this matter in order to draw experiences and determine causes, the mine started building the coal conveying tunnel of Lo Phong in 1959. The upper part of this tunnel is composed of slopes following the coal seams, and the lower part is a flat tunnel which runs through gravel-like clay and lies underneath a layer of soft clay--the rainy season having created streams on.

On hearing the presentation of these projects, the comrade technician reminded us that before digging the tunnel one should drill a series of holes to explore the ground for firmness, but the cadres did not carry this out faithfully and started to build the tunnel without even testing the ground. As a result, when the work was half done, and the expenditures amounted to nearly 140,000 dong, it was realized that the tunnel roof could not hold. It was useless to attempt to support it with wooden props, and concrete casting was not worthwhile since the period of use of the tunnel would be relatively short and the expenses thereby incurred comparatively great; in the end the tunnel project was cancelled and open transportation was adopted, resulting in a waste of funds and labor and slowing down of work.

Lack of an Over-all Project, Confusion in Regard To the Division of Labor, Loose Discipline and Leadership

Huu Nghi Tunnel is a large project and includes many minute problems. Nevertheless, the part that refers to the actual construction of the tunnel is only concerned with the digging operations; there is no concrete plan dealing with transportation and storage. Consequently, the funds approved at the beginning of the year were not adequate; new funds had to be reallocated in mid-year, and even these were not sufficient by the end of the year. Production of coal was due to start in July, and yet the construction plan of shafts was not approved until September; when the shafts and roads had been completed there was no means of transportation. The General Management proposed the use of liquid fuel for trains, but the mine officials became impatient and borrowed an accumulator. Finally by the end of the year neither had the liquid fuel arrived nor had the accumulator been borrowed. Therefore, the tunnel could not be used and competition continued in a state of

emergency.

The division of labor was not concrete and there was a lack of discussion on the part played by the General Management in respect to that played by the mine itself in originating plans.

In regard to the supervision of the competition, technical leadership in technical enterprises, in particular, and in basic construction, in general, was inadequate.

Errors in Competition, and in the Economic Concept of Accounting and Capital Savings in Planning

As was mentioned above, there was a lack of balance in technical and economic estimates regarding many enterprises. On carrying the plan out, it was found that planning and competition organization incurred much waste. For example, iron was often used in cases where it was not needed.

Although several construction sections were not meant to last long, they were too solidly built. As far as competition is concerned, things were done in a random way and not in conformity with accepted standard. Individual enterprises wasted national labor and materials. Materials were scattered indiscriminately, and both small and large residue were found everywhere. Quality and technology were better than in 1958, but they still were not satisfactory.

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These were the mine's main shortcomings in regard to basic construction last year. The mine activities have not been reviewed for the whole year, because an accurate survey and more correct observations could not be made.

However, in the recent checking of the goals of basic construction at the mine in 1960, the Ministry, the General Management, and the board of directors of the mine have made a preliminary survey of the basic construction situation last year, and have advanced many suggestions for improvement. These have been the notable achievements in the development of basic construction of the mine in 1960.

2014

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